

# SOCIAL ACTION NEWS-LETTER

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## National Christian World Order Missions Listed

The list of more than 100 cities to be visited by the National Christian Mission on World Order, scheduled for November 1-20 has been announced by Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, secretary of the Commission on the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace, under whose auspices the conferences are to be held. Six interdenominational agencies—The Federal Council of Churches, the Foreign Missions Conference, the Home Missions Council of North America, the International Council of Religious Education, the Missionary Education Movement, and the United Council of Church Women—have jointly planned and will jointly carry out the program. More than 50 prominent clergymen have agreed to serve as speakers, in addition to qualified laymen and denominational executives. It is planned to send teams of three or four men and women to each of the cities to be visited. The following cities have been selected to date: (See local papers for dates.)

Alabama	Birmingham, Mobile.
Arizona	Phoenix.
Arkansas	Little Rock.
California	Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento.
Colorado	Denver.
Connecticut	Bridgeport, Hartford, Waterbury.
D. C.	Washington.
Georgia	Macon.
Idaho	Pocatello.
Illinois	Chicago, Decatur, Quincy.
Indiana	Evansville, Indianapolis, Lafayette.
Iowa	Des Moines, Iowa City.
Kansas	Topeka, Wichita.
Kentucky	Louisville.
Louisiana	New Orleans, Shreveport.
Maine	Bangor, Portland.
Maryland	Baltimore, Hagerstown.
Massachusetts	Boston, Lowell, Springfield.
Michigan	Lansing.
Minnesota	Minneapolis.
Mississippi	Vicksburg.
Missouri	Chillicothe, Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, Cape Girardeau.
Nebraska	Omaha.
New Jersey	Newark.
New York	Albany, Buffalo, Ithaca, Rochester, Syracuse.
North Dakota	Fargo.
Ohio	Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton.
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City, Tulsa.
Oregon	Corvallis, Eugene, Portland, Salem.
Pennsylvania	Greensburg, Johnstown, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Reading, Wilkes-Barre, Erie.
Rhode Island	Providence.
South Carolina	Columbia.
South Dakota	Sioux Falls, Aberdeen.

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## U. S. Labor Department Warns of Post-War Unemployment

In a report on employment possibilities in the post-war era prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the American Federation of Labor, warning is given that unless careful preparations are made beforehand as many as 12,000,000 American workers may be jobless within six months after the war, according to a report published by United Press. Even under favorable conditions unemployment may involve as many as seven million workers.

In order to cushion the effects of any sudden cessation of war industry the Bureau recommends a six-point program which management, labor, and government must follow to minimize the effects of of post-war unemployment.

1. Rapid reconversion of industry from war to peace-time production.
2. Public works to supply jobs during industrial reconversion.
3. Financial assistance during the period of transition to returning servicemen and demobilized war workers.
4. Gradual demobilization of the armed forces to level without impact of unemployment.
5. Voluntary withdrawal from the labor market of as many women, school-age youths and over-age employees as possible.
6. Federal job placement to direct workers to available jobs and help rehabilitate war wounded.

In addition to the points listed, the Bureau suggests that government-owned war plants' surplus war stocks be disposed of in a manner to help private enterprise rather than further to disorganize efforts toward return to normal production, with continued or gradual tapering off of war contracts, aid to small business, continuation of war-time taxation, bond sales and price-controls to prevent the losing of accumulated consumer purchasing power before markets are sufficiently supplied with peace-time goods, maintenance of high out-put and low prices to encourage production and employment, together with a reduction in the work week.

The report indicates that such industries as the production of refrigerators, sewing machines, electrical appliances, textiles, leather goods, lumber, and paper may show an immediate expansion in employment. Principal sufferers will be welders, riveters, turret lathe operators, machinists, and other skilled and semi-skilled workers. Many unskilled workers may face unemployment.

Reports of business and governmental bureaus such as this have direct implications for churches and religious organizations that rely upon contributions of their constituents for support. Reduction in employment will inevitably mean reduction in wages and salaries. Prudence would seem to dictate the payment of church debts now, conservatism in contracting obligations either in program or investment that will run into the post-war years.

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### Church Gives Alcohol Facts

The Country Club Christian Church, Kansas City, Mo., has a committee of 26, principally husbands and wives, which is charged with responsibility for keeping in touch with the church members in the armed forces. The committee is headed by Frank Gentry, prominent insurance man and a member of our board of trustees. A few weeks ago he sent the following letter on behalf of the committee.

"Greetings to our Service Men and Women:

"On a recent trip to Indianapolis my attention was called to the enclosed booklet 'What Do You Know About Alcohol?' It is so well written, with interesting facts rather than W.C.T.U. propaganda our Service Committee purchased 200 of them for our boys and girls in service.

"Let me first assure you it is not sent with any thought of your personal need of the information, but that you might have it to pass on to some of your 'buddies' who do not have the Christian fortitude we know you possess.

"Therefore, when reading it, please keep in mind that our committee desires to 'preach' a temperance lesson *through you* rather than *to you*. Here at home as well as in the service too many young folk have used the excitement of war as an excuse to be intemperate in many things.

"We are enjoying the many notes and cards received from time to time and it encourages us to keep going, trying to serve you better."

"What Do You Know About Alcohol?" 5 cents from Association Press, 347 Madison Ave., N. Y. C.

### Anti-Poll Tax Fight Grows Hot in the Senate

The Anti-Poll Tax Bill (H.R. 7), passed by the House by an overwhelming majority on May 25, is now pending in the Senate and indications are that proponents of the bill will be able to bring it before the body for vote before Christmas. A determined effort is being made to secure affirmative action at the present session. More than ten million citizens in eight states, of all races and colors, are deprived of the right to vote because of poll tax restrictions. The situation has national significance because Congressmen from these states are, in many districts, elected by a small fraction of the potential electors who constitute a political machine manipulated for the benefit of a small oligarchy. These men, through seniority, finally come to committee chairmanships and are thus able to throttle progressive legislation.

In a letter to this editor Senator Willis of Indiana wrote, "If, after a reasonable amount of debate it appears that a filibuster is impending, I would favor

invoking the cloture rule. This bill passed the House on May 25th and is now on the Discharge Calendar. So far as I know now, I expect to support this measure, although it does not affect Indiana because there is no such tax in the state. I believe the bill is based on sound principles."

### Drinking Conditions in Camps Studied

Spurred by the OWI report that liquor is no problem among the armed forces and that beer is a morale builder, a committee of one hundred was appointed by the Michigan branch of the American Temperance Society to find out what the service men themselves think of drinking conditions in the army and the navy. The committee secured the names and addresses of 600 service men of good antecedents, coming from a cross-section of the homes of the nation and sent to each of them a questionnaire containing 21 questions and space for remarks. Returns from the first 100 were tabulated and reported in *The Union Signal*, national journal of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The questions and the tabulated replies are given below:

1. How long have you been in service? Average 11.67 months.
2. In what branch are you serving? Eleven distinct branches represented.
3. In how many camps have you been? Total 437.
4. Is beer served in the camp canteen? Yes 79, No 17, No report 3.
5. Is hard liquor served there? No 100.
6. From your observation what percentage of the soldiers prefer beer to soft drinks? 59%.
7. What percentage use milk rather than alcoholic liquor? 14%.
8. Is beer served on the tables in your mess at any time? Yes 12. No 75. Special parties 9. No report 4.
9. Have you seen Army trucks deliver liquor into the camps? Yes 78. No 15. No report 7.
10. What are the conditions of the soldiery regarding drunkenness on Saturday nights? Good 16. Average 42. Bad 37. No report 5.
11. Is this condition noticeably worse after payday? Yes 79. No 13. Same 1. No report 7.
12. Have you seen drunken officers? Yes 47. No 48. No report 5.
13. What punishment is given for drunkenness to the private? Some 56. None 32. No report 12.
14. What are the vice conditions about the camps you have seen? Good 16. Average 41. Bad 28. No report 15.
15. Are "victory girls" much in evidence about the camps? Yes 43. No 42. No report 15.
16. From your association with your fellow-soldiers, what is your observation regarding the drinking habits of the soldiers: (a) Are the drinkers those who drank before induction or have they become addicts since induction? Before 52. Both 12. Since 24. No report 12. (b) Have drinking customs become worse than they were in civilian life? Yes 60. No. 23. Don't know 2. No report 15.
17. What instruction regarding the use of alcoholic drinks is given by the chaplain or other officers? Be moderate 23. Little instruction 19. Discouraged 32. Encouraged 1. No instruction 13. No report 13.

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## On Social Frontiers

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, has issued a report on the Detroit race riot of June 20, 1943, under the title, "What Caused the Detroit Riot?" The report, written by Walter White, secretary of the NAACP and Thurgood Marshall, special counsel and editor of *Crisis*, makes a thorough analysis of conditions existing in Detroit for years prior to the outbreak of the war, conditions which were greatly intensified by the concentration of billions of dollars of war contracts in the city and the consequent influx of both whites and Negroes from the South to work in the war industries. Bad housing, discrimination in jobs, vacillation of the local FEPC, ineptitude and brutality of law enforcement agencies where Negroes are concerned, the weakness and lack of vision of the mayor, the attitude of the Detroit Hearst-owned *Times*, are among the causes of the rioting cited by the investigators. Copies of the report can be secured from NAACP offices in New York.

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*Mexican Labor News*, a press release service of the Worker's University, Mexico City, is responsible for the report that Mexican Foreign Minister Ezequiel Padilla has refused a request of Governor Coke Stevenson of Texas for 70,000 additional Mexican agricultural workers to help harvest Texas crops on the ground that Mexicans are discriminated against in Texas and that no official measures have been taken against it. Padilla is reported to have stated in his reply to Governor Stevenson, "in many places Mexican residents are not allowed to attend public spectacles without protest and criticism. There are towns where my fellow-countrymen are compelled to live in separate districts. A daughter of a Mexican consul in an important Texas city was refused service in a public establishment merely because she was heard speaking Spanish. Such incidents are of daily occurrence. . . ."

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According to *United China Relief News*, more than a million dollars has been sent to China for the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives since September 1940. These industrial cooperatives are now producing more than \$1,550,000 (U.S.) worth of goods monthly, and have in some places lowered inflation conditions materially. Products go principally to the Chinese army, the Red Cross, and to civilian populations. It has been discovered recently that many co-ops thought lost when Japan took over areas of China have continued to exist and operate on guerilla principles, obtaining supplies intended for the Japanese army and smuggling them into Free China.

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Share-croppers of the South opened their first co-op store in Spruce Pine, Ala., a small town south of the Tennessee River valley. Twenty-six men and women living on cotton farms saved enough money to take out shares of \$5 each until their combined capital was \$205. Two of the directors are Negroes. They rented an empty store, employed a manager, and proceeded to patronize their own store. Sales the first thirty days amounted to \$790. The stock of goods increased by rapid turn-over was valued at \$500. (*The Co-operative Consumer*.)

Write the Division of Christian Education for a copy of "Toward a Christian Social Order" which describes projects in spiritual mobilization.

## Rural Church Journal Launched

The projected interdenominational journal dealing with the rural church was launched with the publication of a sample issue bearing a September dateline. Christened *Town and Country Church*, the new publication will, according to announcement, "specialize on resources, methods and tools for ministers in town and country churches." Brief stories of what people are doing in local congregations and communities will be a feature. It will also aim to put the church worker in the small community into touch with numerous activities and programs carried on by churches in all parts of the country. The publication is sponsored by the Committee on Town and Country of the Home Missions Council of North America, representing 25 cooperating denominations. A board of editors of ten persons has been named, among whom is listed James A. Crain. The subscription price is \$1.00 per year. The office of publication is 297 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y.

## Launch Project in Christian Race Relations

The Division of Christian Education in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare and Rural Work has sent letters to more than 5,000 pastors and local church correspondents enclosing copies of a pamphlet entitled "To End This Day of Strife," urging pastors to preach a sermon some time in the near future on Christian race relations and to sponsor study groups to consider the proposal outlined in the pamphlet, to secure personal commitment from interested individuals to study racial tensions and do whatever may be in their power to remove causes of friction. Also enclosed in the letter is a "Commitment Card" which the individual may use to record his personal decision. The purpose is to bring to the attention of Christians in local churches the plan to enlist the active, courageous service of individuals throughout the nation for service in the church and in the community to relieve racial tensions, prevent riots and conflicts and to improve interracial relations through the development of justice and good will. Pamphlets and the commitment cards can be secured from The United Christian Missionary Society, 222 S. Downey, Indianapolis 7, Indiana. Pamphlets are \$1.75 per 100, commitment cards, 75 cents per 100.

## Norwegian Churchmen Continue to Resist Nazis

Forty-four Norwegian clergymen have been expelled from their congregations by Quisling authorities and the Gestapo, according to the Swedish newspaper *Stockholms Tidningen*, as reported by the British Information Service. Early in 1942, 1,100 of Norway's clergymen resigned their positions en masse after the German invasion and the establishment by the Quisling government of a ministry that attempted to bring the Norwegian church under political control. By this action they lost their right to collect their salaries from the state, but for the most part they have been allowed to remain with their congregations, though the seven bishops of the church were removed. The latest action exiled two bishops, four deans, sixteen vicars, nine perpetual curates, and thirteen preachers. The 1943 New Year's Message of the Norwegian Church charged that the Quisling regime had "literally driven from their homes and their parishes" 35 clergymen.

## Labor Union Appeals to the Churches

Under date of September 21, J. Raymond Walsh, director of the Department of Research and Education of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), with headquarters at 718 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D. C., addressed a letter to the churches holding membership in the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, asking an opportunity for mutual counsel and "opportunities for working more closely together." Enclosed with the letter were three pieces of literature recently published by the CIO, a reprint of Kermit Eby's article in the September 8 issue of *Christian Century*, entitled "Organized Labor and Philanthropy," an article by the same author. "Is Labor More Human Than the Church?" published in the June issue of *Unity*, and an attractive leaflet issue by the CIO entitled, "Church and Labor." The latter publication summarizes the utterances of various religious and labor bodies about the common concerns of the churches and labor, among them statements by the Federal Council of Churches, the National Catholic Welfare Council, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and the Council for Social Action. Philip Murray writes, "Labor has no grudge against the church. Labor wants the church to understand what its unions are trying to achieve; how unions are absolutely necessary to this great democracy, which, pray God, will be preserved."

## News-Letter Editor to Serve on Mission Team

The editor of Social Action News-Letter, James A. Crain, has been asked to serve as one of the speakers for the National Christian Mission on World Order and will be a member of a team assigned to engagements in Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Dates for this team are as follows: Cape Girardeau, Mo., November 1, St. Louis, Mo., November 2, Springfield, Mo., November 3, Chillicothe, Mo., November 4, Topeka, Kans., November 8, Oklahoma City, Okla., November 9, Tulsa, Okla., November 10, and Wichita, Kans., November 11.

## Jarvis Graduate Serves Agricultural Migrant Groups

Ernest H. Culpepper, graduate of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas, spent the months of June, July, and August among the crop migrants in Michigan as the representative of the Department of Social Welfare and Rural Work under a cooperative arrangement with the Home Missions Council of North America. While a student for the ministry at Jarvis, Mr. Culpepper spent one or two summers as a missionary among migrants under the direction of the Home Missions Council and upon graduation two years ago he was ordained to the ministry and entered full time service in this field. Both he and Mrs. Culpepper follow the migrants from place to place as they harvest the crops, teaching Bible classes, preaching, conducting sings, supervising recreation, interceding at times with employers, advising workers, and generally seeking to bring about better understanding and working conditions. In reporting on his work Mr. Culpepper writes, "We visited as many as three camps a day in order to have contact with a great number of people as often as possible within a week."

## National Christian Missions (continued)

Tennessee	Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville.
Texas	Dallas, El Paso, Houston, San Antonio.
Utah	Ogden, Salt Lake City.
Virginia	Richmond, Roanoke.
Washington	Tacoma, Seattle, Spokane, Bellingham, Yakima.
West Virginia	Fairmount, Charleston, Huntington
Wisconsin	Eau Claire, Milwaukee.

In connection with the Missions two other observances will be sponsored. November 7, has been designated as World Order Sunday and a leaflet outlining suggested plans for its observance has been prepared by the International Council of Religious Education. On November 11, the United Council of Church Women plan to have ten million women giving a major portion of the day to the theme, "The Price of an Enduring Peace." The headquarters of the Council, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, has prepared an excellent pamphlet outlining plans for the day. The United Christian Youth Movement has also prepared worship materials. For information write to 203 N. Wabash Ave., Chicago.

Teams representing the National Christian Mission on World Order will hold one-day conferences in each of the cities visited. The purpose will be to confer with local leaders in order to set in motion a continuing process of education and action looking toward a post-war world order that will offer some hope of justice, security, and permanency. A second aim will be to develop a strong body of public opinion alive to the need for keeping America "in the peace." While no one can say at this time what form the post-war world order will take, it is obvious that the U. S. must take a responsible part in the peace. A third objective is to bring to the general public the results of special studies on the subject that have been made by Christian groups.

The recently formed Commission on World Order set up jointly by the International Convention and The United Christian Missionary Society has sent out a letter to more than 5,000 pastors and church leaders listing the cities to be visited and urging that local church delegations be formed to attend.

## Drinking Conditions (continued)

18. What is the general atmosphere regarding the use of liquor by soldiers: Is it frowned upon? 9. Condoned? 42. Encouraged? 38. No report 11.
19. Are there beer or liquor advertisements in the camp canteen? No 74. Yes 16. No report 10. Mess halls? No 93. No report 7. About the camps? No 75. Yes 14. No report 11. Near the camps? Yes 62. No 27. No report 11.
20. Does it appear to you that the brewers are endeavoring to urge the use of beer on the soldiery? No 33. Yes 51. No report 16.
21. Would a complete prohibition of liquor be the soldiery be better for the efficiency and morale of the Army? Yes 57. No 28. No report 15. Is beer necessary for morale? Yes 15. No 71. No report 14.